

was the common talk of "the trade;" while even telegrams were running up and down during the Tuesday, as to what the Society of Agricultural Engineers should or should not do.

We have considered it only a duty to make some special reference to this matter, obviously important as it is to the managers of our agricultural associations, as well as to the whole body of our implement-makers. The one great deduction is inevitable. As Lord Brougham said the other day, "Man's lot is to compete with his fellows;" and the more openly he does so, the better. We counsel our different societies, ere they commit themselves to the non-prize system. We put it to the great body of manufacturers whether they should follow "the Society," the very generals of which cannot agree with each other? There is a fine opening now just dawning for the introduction of good implements into Scotland; but we fearlessly assert that this can never be made the most of, without the incentive of public competition. Let us remember how the people crowded round these trials, and how ready they were to conviction thus put honestly before them. And let us compare with this the listless way in which they looked at entries that carefully avoided such a test. When the agricultural engineers signed their "round robin" not to exhibit at Edinburgh, because premiums were offered, they were doing both themselves and the agriculturists of Scotland as much harm as it is possible to conceive. As a correspondent devotes a paper specially to the implement section of the show, we may now turn to some of its equally attractive features.

A Scotch show of stock is essentially national, and the Edinburgh meeting perhaps of all others was peculiarly distinguished in this wise. It was in the native breeds that its great strength was to be found. It was the Highland and Ayrshire cattle, the Cheviot and blackfaced sheep, and the Clydesdale horses that showed to the greatest advantage. We use the term advisedly. No other kinds were anything like so much at home here. The very Shorthorns, now at home almost everywhere, certainly suffered as a class against the rough-coated but blooming-looking mountaineers. The Leicesters and Southdowns had rarely the healthy vigorous appearance of the long bang-tailed Cheviots, or the resolute curly-horned denizen of "the hill." In a word, there is no other quarter of the kingdom in which climate has so much to do with it; and although they may be improved, it is rarely that the original breeds can be displaced. In the lowlands, and where the country will pay for high farming, some change may be observable; but elsewhere, almost every district adheres to its own sorts as faithfully as to the pedigree of its clan or the pattern of its plaid. Even the most advanced of agriculturists have discarded the fine Leicesters we saw them buying at Berwick a few years since, and have gone right back to their own sorts. And a Scotch Leicester is rather a different animal from our English one, as Mr. Wiley gave us the opportunity of remarking at this very meeting. Amongst the horses, here so comparatively close to the banks of the Clyde, there was no such chance of comparison. Saving only a good-looking thorough-bred horse, or a curiously small Shetland pony, there was scarcely anything to interfere with the long line of Clydesdale colts and fillies. Still, like the horned sheep or the Highland cattle, the Clyde horse is clearly susceptible to improvement, or, in other words, to the influence of these meetings. A Clydesdale prize mare is now a very different animal from that the members of the Highland Society hung up in their Museum Hall in 1840, with her long legs, weak thighs, hollow back, and light middle-piece. Either the painter or his patrons must have been put to it for a subject in those days.

The great show of horses, however, was not on the show ground; or, at least, it was not here that the stranger gathered his impressions of the real use and value of the Clydesdales. They may be pampered up for mere exhibition, and are certainly as a rule made very fat. But at Myreside Farm, where the implements were on trial, there were some fifty sets of working pairs, ready to take out the ploughs, harrows, grubbers, and mowers. These, as usual, were borrowed for the day from the neighboring tenantry; and never were such a lot of plough-horses got together. It was, in fact, the Clyde horse shown to the greatest advantage—in excellent condition, very uniform in character, generally of great size and power, they fairly for a time monopolised the whole interest of the scene. People could scarcely be got to look at the work, but were going about trying to pick out the best couples—by no means an easy matter.—It was not, indeed, until the ploughs started, and horses and implements were nearly all matched, that the visitor remembered what he had specially come to see. There was not only the make, shape, and action of the Clydesdale as a cart-horse that com-